1	2	3
Dahanu (Thane District)		Rajgarh District
Yavatmal (Vidarbha)		Hoshangabad District
Dharni District (Amravati)		Mhow
Khandesh (Jalgaon)		Barman
Karmala District (Sholapur)		Ratlam
Malegaon (Nashik District)		
Gondia (Vidarbha Region)		
Beed		
Vita (Sangli District)		
Dapoli (Ratnagiri District)		
Murtajapur (Akola District)		
Kudal (Sindhudurg District)		
Gadchiroli		
TOTAL-23	TOTAL-8	TOTAL-15

(b) Press Information Bureau has been disseminating information to the people in the form of Press Releases/Press Notes/Backgrounders/Features/Articles as well as by holding Press Conferences, conducting Press Tours and organizing Public Information Campaigns. This is being done through the use of Information Technology enabled service delivery mechanisms as well as print and electronic media which also include audio-visual medium. Provisioning of requisite officers/staffs and other logistics is an integral part of this endeavour.

Number portability

†*158. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unnecessary delay in implementation of number portability;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for implementation of number portability; if so, the details thereof?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government has issued Guidelines for award of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) service licence(s) on 01.08.2008. As per the said guidelines, MNP is to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

implemented in all 'Metro' and Category 'A' service areas within six months of the award of the licence and in rest of the service areas within one year of the award of the licence. The tender for grant of MNP service licences has been floated on 25.11.2008 after following due procedure. As per the present schedule of events of the tender, the date for announcement of successful bidder(s) and issuance of Letter(s) of Intent is 05.03.2009.

Indians languishing in foreign jails

†*159. SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians languishing in jails abroad, along with the details of the charges against them;

(b) the details with regard to their names, addresses etc., State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to get them released from jails and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sales tax on petro products

*160. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to cut sales tax on petro products to reduce their prices further;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) By virtue of entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Sales Tax is a State subject. Any decision regarding reduction of Sales Tax has to be taken by the State Governments concerned.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Handling of nuclear waste

1012. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sweden has offered to extend technical assistance in handling nuclear waste;